

Claims

I claim :

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1. An embossing surface configured for transferring data to other surfaces, said embossing surface consisting of a photodefined polyimide material.
 2. The embossing surface of claim 1, wherein said polyimide is aqueous developable.
 3. The embossing surface of claim 2, wherein said data is transferred to said embossing surface by photo detection.
 4. The embossing surface of claim 3, wherein said data is text.
 5. The embossing surface of claim 3, wherein said data is image data.
 6. The embossing surface of claim 3, wherein said polyimide is hardened by baking.

7. The embossing surface of claim 3, wherein said polyimide is defined to be positive tone.

8. The embossing surface of claim 7, further comprising a flash-coated metal film over said polyimide.

9. The embossing surface of claim 8, wherein said embossing surface is suitable for gravure printing.

10. A method of embossing data from an embossing surface to other surfaces, said method consisting of the steps of :

(a) exposing a photo-definable material to EMF radiation defining said data;

(b) curing said photo-definable material to achieve an embossing surface of a selected hardness; and,

(c) using said embossing surface to emboss said data onto said other surfaces.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein step (a) comprises a subsequent substep of :

(i) developing said photo-definable material with a solvent.

12. A method of claim 11, wherein step (a), further comprises a preliminary substep of :

(ii) applying said photo-definable material to a roller.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein step (a) further comprises a preliminary substep of :

(iii) pre-curing said photo-definable material by heating.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein said photo-definable material is a polyimide.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein said step (c) of curing comprises heating said photo-definable material.

16. The method of claim 10, wherein said EMF radiation comprises light.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said light is monochromatic and generated by a laser.

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D8 18. The method of claim 15, wherein step (c) comprises a preliminary substep of :
(ii) applying a coating of metal over said polyimide material.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said step (e) of using said embossing surface to emboss said data is carried out as gravure printing on said other surfaces.

20. The method of claim 19, where the photo-definable material is copied by electroforming using nickel.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein said photo-definable material is copied by electroforming using chrome.

22. The method of claim 10, wherein said data is selected from a group consisting of images, printed text, reliefs and holograms.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said data is in a holographic dot matrix format.

24. The method of claim 10, wherein said photodefinable material is applied to a flat surface.

25. The method of claim 10, wherein said photodefinable material is applied as an embellishment coating to an object.

26. A method of transferring data from a first surface to other surfaces to a transfer medium, said method consisting of the steps of :

- (a) casting said transfer medium on a surface containing said data; and,
- (b) using said transfer medium to ~~emboss~~ *transfer said data to* said other surfaces.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein said transfer medium is polyimide.